

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5544

C O N F I D E N T I A L ABU DHABI 0306

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MASS, TC
SUBJ: VISIT OF COLT REPS

REF: (A) STATE 4582, (B) 76 ABU DHABI 3537

1. COLT REPS ROY AND SEALE SPENT WEEK JAN 12-19 IN ABU DHABI CONSULTING WITH UAE DF OFFICIALS, HEADED BY MAJOR GENERAL KHALDI, ON QUESTION OF POSSIBLE SALE OF M16A1 RIFLES TO UAE DF. AS INDICATED REF B, FOCUS OF THIS VISIT WAS ON POSSIBLE ARRANGEMENTS FOR PURCHASE OF DF'S EXISTING INVENTORY OF RIFLES. CONTRARY TO DCM'S UNDERSTANDING FROM GEN KHALDI (76 ABU DHABI 3200), MOST OF THESE RIFLES--SOME 6-10,000--ARE BELGIAN FABRIQUE NATIONALE (FN) 7.62 RIFLES (THERE ARE IN ADDITION PERHAPS 2,000 BRITISH SLR'S, BUT IT NOT CLEAR THAT THESE TO BE DISPOSED OF). ROY AND SEALE EXAMINED WHAT PURPORTED TO BE REPRESENTATIVE SAMPLE OF FN RIFLES ALL OF WHICH WERE SAID TO BE ALMOST FOUR YEARS OLD, MANY NEWER. REP OF FIRM WHICH COLT CONSIDERING AS ULTIMATE BUYER OF WEAPONS (WE BELIEVE FIRM MAY BE UNITED TRADE INTERNATIONAL OF P.O. BOX 1448, ARLINGTON, VA. AND 276 SOUTH WEST 33RD COURT, FORT LAUDERDALE, FLA.) WAS IN DUBAI, AND ROY AND SEALE COMMUTED BACK AND FORTH. ON JAN 16 THEY PRESENTED GENERAL KHALDI WITH OFFER OF \$90 AVERAGE FOR FN RIFLES, SUBJECT OF COURSE TO CONFIDENTIAL

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FULLER INSPECTION. KHALDI OPINED THIS SEEMED REASONABLE (HE SAID HE THOUGHT THEY MIGHT OFFER \$100) BUT HE WAS NOT SURE WHAT REACTION WOULD BE FROM LOCAL OFFICIALS INCLUDING SHAIKH KHALIFA IN VIEW OF ORIGINAL COST OF RIFLES (APPARENTLY IN VICINITY \$375). KHALDI PROMISED TO LET COLT KNOW THROUGH EMBASSY WHEN DECISION REACHED, SOMETHING HE HOPED WOULD HAPPEN SOON. HE NOTED, HOW-

EVER, THAT FINAL ANSWER WOULD UNDOUBTEDLY INVOLVE
SHAIKH ZAYED WHO WAS CURRENTLY IN PAKISTAN.

2. KHALDI ALSO DISCUSSED WITH ROY AND SEALE POSSIBLE
PURCHASE OF PISTOLS, SOME 50 DETECTIVE SPECIALS
(.38S) AND, MORE INTERESTING, PERHAPS AS MANY AS 50
ENGRAVED REVOLVERS SUCH AS THOSE COLT HAS MADE FOR
KING HUSSEIN (ROY SAID THIS PISTOL WHICH UNADORNED
COST SOME \$350 RUNS UPWARDS OF \$5000 WITH ENGRAVING).
COLT REPS PROMISED MAKE OFFER AFTER CONSULTATION WITH
FACTORY REPS IN HARTFORD.

3. COMMENT: IT SEEMED CLEAR FROM GENERAL RUN OF CONVER-
SATION WITH GEN KHALDI THAT HE CONTINUES TO FAVOR
M16A1 AS RIFLE FOR UAE DF. GETTING RULING FAMILY
INTRIGUED WITH IDEA OF CERMONIAL PISTOLS APPEARED
TO PART OF WORKING UP TOTAL PACKAGE WITH COLT. ON
OTHER HAND, KHALDI STILL REFUSED TO COMMIT HIMSELF
ON RESULTS OF RIFLE COMPETITION (SEE 76 ABU DHABI 3200).
AS FURTHER COMMENTARY OF FACTORS INFLUENCING SUCH
DECISIONS, KHALDI NOTED THAT SHAIKH ZAYED WAS QUITE
ENAMORED WITH GERMAN RIFLE--HAVING HAD A NUMBER
OF THEM PRESENTED TO HIM AS A GIFT DURING HIS VISIT
TO GERMANY LAST SUMMER: TIME WILL TELL.
DICKMAN

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